

In the Specification

Kindly replace paragraph [0014] with the following:

In this situation, recently synthetic papers composed of ultrafine fibers with a diameter of 10 μm or less are also being studied. As for the methods, the sea component is dissolved or physically removed for separation from an islands-in-sea multi-component fiber or from a splittable conjugate fiber, to prepare ultrafine fibers, and the obtained ultrafine fibers are used to produce a synthetic paper. The basic methods for producing such ultrafine fibers are already disclosed (for example, US Patent 3,382,305), and the ultrafine fibers per se are also disclosed (for example, US Patent 3,546,033, 3,546,063). According to them, a method of removing the sea component from an islands-in-sea multi-component polyester fiber using an adequate solvent is used to obtain ultrafine fibers, and it is suggested that the ultrafine fibers can be used to produce a paper-like structure. However, since the ultrafine fibers obtained were very irregular in diameter, ranging from 0.01 to 3 μm , a practically usable synthetic paper was not obtained.